

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

50X1-HUM

**INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS**

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Economic - Fishing

DATE DIST. 27 Jul 1950

HOW PUBLISHED Semiweekly, daily newspapers

WHERE PUBLISHED Warsaw

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE
PUBLISHED 15 Apr - 25 Apr 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Polish

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U. S. C., 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

HAKE CATCH STRAINS PORT FACILITIES;
DISCUSSES FISHING PROBLEMS, WHALING

HAKE SEASON BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT -- Gazeta Handlowa, No 30, 19 Apr 50

About 80 percent of the entire Polish fish catch is hake. Hake is most abundant in March, April, and May, and during the busy season the distribution system is faced with the problem of disposing of the heavy catch.

The ports have not kept pace with the expansion of the floating equipment, and as a result there is an acute shortage of unloading and handling facilities, warehouses, processing plants, freezers, and refrigerators. The Central Fish Administration, which processes and distributes the entire Polish fish catch, has a difficult assignment during the hake season. However, the administration, in cooperation with the Ministry of Navigation, has set a limit for daily port admissions, to avoid the blunders of former years when fishermen delivered hake to ports which were the nearest and most convenient for them. This resulted in bottlenecks in certain ports and the insufficient use of others.

Not only have the maritime departments of Gdynia and Szczecin been prepared for the hake season but also the ground facilities, on which the proper distribution and processing of cargos depend. The main stress was laid on coordination between the ports and the area distribution stores for the purpose of transporting larger amounts of codlings.

During the last 10 days of March 1950, 500-700 tons of hake were delivered to the ports daily. These had to be unloaded, received, reweighed, sorted, cleaned, protected from spoiling, and sent into the country either fresh or smoked, all on the same day. To avoid any stoppages as the result of an unusually heavy catch, the hake program, called Program "D," was initiated. A special administrative commissioner and area commissioner were appointed, and commercial and service personnel were recruited.

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | CLASSIFICATION | | CONFIDENTIAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| STATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NAVY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NSRB | | DISTRIBUTION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARMY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | AIR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FBI | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Hake is a valuable raw material in the manufacture of many products. Oil extracted from the liver is used for medicine, for the production of margarine, and for soap. The skins are used in the manufacture of fancy goods such as women's slippers, bags, belts, gloves, and book covers. The scales are used for artificial pearls. The heads, bones, and bladders are used for making glue. The remains are processed into fodder or fertilizer meal.

In a short time, Polish stores will carry a new product made of hake meat mixed with oil and seasoning in the form of a paste. This food product will be tasty as well as easy to prepare and serve.

HAKE SUPPLY EXCEEDS DEMAND -- Zycie Warszawy, No 111, 23 Apr 50

On 20 April, 700,000 kilograms of hake were caught in the Baltic Sea. Hundreds of tons of freshly caught hake are sent daily to the cities and villages. All fish-processing plants are now working on a 24-hour schedule. More people are beginning to use and appreciate this valuable source of food rich in iodine, protein, and vitamins. In spite of the fact that hake is one of the cheapest and most nutritious fish, there still is little demand for it in Poland.

STATE FARMS FAIL TO ACT ON FISHING EQUIPMENT -- Zycie Warszawy, No 113, 25 Apr 50

Fishing equipment, until now, has been the property of lake fishermen and workers of state farms. As of 1 April 1950, under the new collective bargaining agreement, the equipment was to become the property of the state farms. Conditions under which the state will purchase the equipment from the fishermen have not yet been determined, nor has credit been granted for this purpose.

The fishermen do not know when the state will purchase the nets from them nor at what price. They do not know whether to set up the nets or mend them. A great deal of the fishing equipment is inadequate. The district of Gizycko sent a request for nets to the Central Fish-Marketing Office in the fourth quarter of 1949, to allow several weeks for impregnating the nets. Up to the present, the Central Fish-Marketing Office has sent only a few nets, mostly odd lots.

An inadequate supply of fishing equipment caused the Mragowo cooperative to achieve only 65 percent of the half-yearly plan for 1949. The failure of the Central Fish-Marketing Office to supply nets in season endangers employment at the Gizycko Shop for Impregnating Nets, the only establishment of its kind in Poland. It has well-trained personnel, adequate equipment, and chemicals. A new training course is contemplated for June, but there are no nets for impregnation. Nonimpregnated nets last only a year and have been banned.

The earnings from fishing, up to the present, have not been steady. Fishermen have been able to earn several tens of thousand zlotys during the summer months, but during the winter they made little. The new collective bargaining agreement has regulated earnings. Instead of receiving a certain percentage for the catch, they will receive a fixed salary plus a bonus. Lake fishermen have not accepted this plan enthusiastically. Fishermen from some of the state farm groups in Maxury have transferred to ocean fishing where wages are still on a percentage basis. These fishermen are referred to as sharks, or people who do not know how to work together.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Fishermen also complain of other shortcomings. There is a shortage of petroleum-burning combustion engines, and a lack of transportation facilities. The branch in Węgorzewo has but one two-horse cart at its disposal.

A new Institute of Fresh-water Fishing is to be built in Gizycko, and scientists are studying three Mazury lakes: Pajty, Grajewko, and Harszyn. It is hoped that motorized dragnets will be used for fishing in 1950.

The fishing industry has pledged fulfillment of the fish-stocking plan 120 percent during the Six-Year Plan, and the production plan at least 105 percent.

CONSIDER WHALING FOR POLAND -- Gazeta Handlowa, No 29, 15 Apr 50

Whaling is one of the most profitable branches of the fishing industry. The expense of building and outfitting the whaling fleet, including a floating factory and several whaling vessels can be amortized in a couple of years. Prior to the war, the Norwegian whaling enterprises sometimes paid their shareholders dividends of 50 percent or over. The high price of whale oil during the war, induced other nations to enter the whaling field.

It has been debated whether Poland can engage in whaling on a par with other maritime nations. For Poland, the organization of a whaling industry presents many difficulties, the greatest being the lack of whaling experience. The floating factory could be easily manned, but manning the whaling vessels would be far more difficult.

In geographical location, Poland is on a par with the USSR, Norway, and Finland. The main whaling area is in the waters of the Antarctic and the route is practically the same from any Northern European country.

During the war, 28 floating factories out of 41 were lost and others were converted into tankers. As a result, there were only eight floating factories left in the entire world after the war. Norway's loss was 62 percent, Germany's 49 percent, Britain's 95 percent, and Japan's 100 percent. During the last 3 years, several new vessels have been built so that the world's present whaling fleet numbers 22 floating factories with a total tonnage of 379,018 deadweight tons.

The whaling industry is based mainly on the procurement of blubber, which is rendered into whale oil. With the application of new preservation methods, whale meat has become a high-grade food comparable to beef. About 5-6 tons of oil and 9-10 tons of meat are obtained from a full-grown blue fin whale, with by-products in the form of dehydrated meat and bonemeal, meat extracts, and pharmaceutical products such as amber gris, insulin, etc. The output of a medium-size floating factory for one season averages approximately 10,000 tons of oil, 5,000 tons of meat products, 3,000 tons of meal, 300 tons of extracts, some medicinal whale oil, pharmaceuticals, and whalebone. To obtain the same amount of fats from farming would require 100,000 hogs.

The estimated cost of building a medium-size floating factory and six whalers is approximately 4 million British pounds. One season of whaling can bring in products valued at approximately 3 million pounds. Considering Poland's relatively high cost of operation, the fleet could be amortized in 4 or 5 years.

- E N D -

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL